

Language Barrier



Preparation: Make the cards. Copy with the bold words on one side and the definition on the other. If you can't print the cards back-to-back on a single piece of paper, you will need to adhere the two sheets together and then cut them apart. Make sure the empty boxes line up by holding the two pieces of paper up to a bright light before gluing.

In this game you will explore how our language has changed with the innovations of technology, and how words often are only a reflection of the time they come from. Play this game with two players who have an age difference of at least twenty years.

Both players read the word on the top of the card and then make a guess as to its definition. The player closest to the correct definition wins. Beware: As times change, so do words!

After you play all the cards, share with your partner:

- Which words were the most unfamiliar to you?
- When and how should we decide a word is "real" and include it in a dictionary?
- What words do you think will never make it in a dictionary?

For More Fun

Try looking up each of the words to see if they are in the dictionary. Use two dictionaries, one that is brand new and one that was printed before 1980. Look for the same words.

- How many technology words can you find that have another meaning?

Have each player try to find two more words to stump each other. Use the blank cards to add your words to the game.



The Cards

Anglewitch	Hub	Faitour	Impignorate	Hacker
Defragment	Pram	Chafe	Pilliver	Queue
Blaguer	RAM	Gallinipper	Port	MAC
Blogger	Ergophobic	Mack		
Camorra	Boolean Logic	POST		

The Cards BACK

One who breaks program code	To pawn or mortgage something	A cheater or fake	The center of a wheel or a device that connects many other devices in a network	A worm used as fishing bait
A line of people, or an order in which things are delivered in a network	A pillowcase	To bother, irritate	A baby carriage	Consolidating data on a harddrive
The physical hardware address of a computer	An electrically wired outlet into which a plug or cable connects, or a place where ships dock.	A large mosquito	Random Access Memory	A person who talks pretentiously
		Raincoat	One who fears work	A person who posts their journal online
		Power On Self Test is what a computer does when it is booted, or the act of mailing a letter	A form of algebra in which all equations can be reduced to either true or false	A secret society